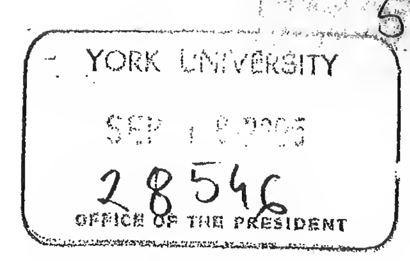


UJA Federations Canada
מגבית הפדרציות היהודיות בקנדה

Stanley K. Plotnick, President
Maxyne Finkelstein, Executive Vice President

September 14, 2005

Lorna Marsden
President & Vice Chancellor
York University, Room S 949
Ross Bldg.
4700 Keel St.
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

Dear President Marsden,

I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Barbara Bank, and I am the chairperson of the board of National Jewish Campus Life, the primary resource provider and convener for Jewish student life in Canada. As such, we work closely with Hillel of Greater Toronto, who I know, through their Executive Director – Zac Kaye, has fostered a close working relationship with York University. As the new academic year begins, I'd like to wish you and York University continued success.

I am communicating with you today regarding the latest piece issued by Professor David Noble, as well as his recent letter to the *Excalibur*. As you are undoubtedly aware, aside from the York administration, donors to the York Foundation and supporters of UJA, his targets now include faculty members, Hillel staff, and most disturbingly, Jewish student leaders from York and other universities around the country. Members of our community, both lay leaders and students, have expressed their concerns to us. We know the seriousness with which York addresses encroachments upon the positive learning environment it has committed to fostering, and we are confident that you are concerned about this matter. We would be appreciative if you would inform us of how you intend to address this situation, and what York University's official response is to Noble's writings and public declarations.

I'd like to thank you for your administration's ongoing cooperation with Hillel of Greater Toronto. We are grateful for the strong bonds you have built with the Jewish community on campus. I look forward to hearing from you, and I hope that we can work together to maintain York's unique and safe learning environment.

With Warm Regards,

Barbara Bank
Chair, National Jewish Campus Life

Cc: Paul Marcus, President & CEO of York University Foundation
Zac Kaye, Executive Director, Hillel of Greater Toronto

4600 Bathurst Street, #315, Toronto, Ontario M2R 3V3 Tel: (416) 636-7655
Fax: (416) 636-9897
e-mail: office@uiafed.org website: www.jewishcanada.org